

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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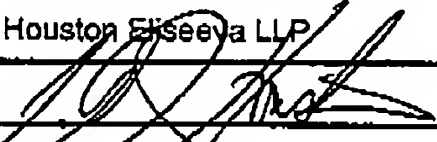
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>	Application Number	10/007,502	
	Filing Date	November 8, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Jonathan R. Coppeta	
	Art Unit	1765	
	Examiner Name	Ahmed, Shamim	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3	Attorney Docket Number	1099us


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## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Houston Eliseeva LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	J. Grant Houston		
Date	March 9, 2006	Reg. No.	35,900

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re:	Jonathan R. Coppeta	Confirmation No:	2283
Application No:	10/007,502	Group:	1765
Filed:	November 8, 2001	Examiner:	Ahmed, Shamim
For:	Method for Fabricating Micro Optical Elements Using CMP		
Customer No.:	25263		

Attorney Docket No.	1099us
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Sir:

This is the Applicants'-Appellants' Reply to the Examiner's Answer of January 9, 2006.

The following summarizes issues that were presented in the Appellant's Brief and unanswered in the Examiner's Answer.

**Relative to Claim 1**

It is Applicant's contention that the references do not suggest 'mechanically polishing a surface to modify features to produce optically curved surfaces'.

Kane shows the use of chemical polishing to product curved surfaces.

The Answer at page 4, first full paragraph, points to the following portion of Hawkins for the proposition that the references suggest the claimed invention:

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Attorney Docket No.: 1099.us


tive index higher than that of the dielectric layer 100. The lens material 130 is preferably chosen from the group silicon  
20 nitride, titanium oxide, and tantalum oxide, and can be deposited by vacuum evaporation or by application and densification of sol-gels. The top of the coating of the lens material 130 is irregularly formed at this stage, as depicted in FIG. 5D. Referring now to FIG. 5E, the lens material 130  
25 is then planarized optically flat to form optically flat lens surfaces 130a, preferably by chemical mechanical polishing, to the extent that the lens material 130 is removed from the optically flat surface 100a of the dielectric layer 100 in regions where there were no depressions 120a. Because the  
30 depressions 120a of FIG. 5C are substantially contiguous, the remaining portions of the original optically flat surface 100a can be removed, either by isotropic etching or by chemical mechanical polishing to a slight extent, to form an optically flat repolished surface 100b of the dielectric layer  
35 100 in its place. The optically flat lens surfaces 130a of the

If anything, this portion of Hawkins supports Applicant's position, however. Simply, it was known to use mechanical polishing to produce flat, planarized surfaces—in fact, this is the classic application for CMP (chemical-mechanical-polishing) machines used throughout the semiconductor industry. However, was not obvious from the references to use mechanical polishing to produce optically curved surfaces, as claimed.

For this reason, Applicant-Appellant believes that the claims are patentable.

Should any questions arise, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lexington, Massachusetts 02421  
Date: March 9, 2006